

Basic Detail Report

The writers Alberto Moravia, Dacia Maraini

and the actor Ninetto Davoli

Date

1969-1979

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

The writers Alberto Moravia, Dacia Maraini and the actor Ninetto Davoli, barely seen behind the outstretched hand of an unseen figure, all looking flustered by some event off camera. Alberto Moravia, born Alberto Pincherle, (1907-1990) was an Italian novelist and journalist. His novels explored matters of modern sexuality, social alienation, and existentialism. He is best known for his debut novel *Gli indifferenti* (published in 1929 when he was only 22), a realistic analysis of the moral decadence of a middle-class mother and two of her children, and for the anti-fascist novel *Il Conformista* (*The Conformist*), the basis for the film *The Conformist* (1970) directed by Bernardo Bertolucci. Dacia Maraini (b.1936) was the daughter of Sicilian Princess Topazia Alliata di Salaparuta, an artist and art dealer, and of Fosco Maraini, a Florentine ethnologist and mountaineer of mixed Ticinese, English and Polish background who wrote in particular on Tibet and Japan. Maraini's work focuses on women's issues, and she has written numerous plays and novels. She has won awards for her work, including the Formentor Prize for *L'età del malessere* (1963); the Premio Fregene for *Isolina* (1985); the Premio Campiello and Book of the Year Award for *La lunga vita di Marianna Ucria* (1990). She became Alberto Moravia's companion, living with him from 1962 until 1983, and together with Enzo Siciliano, founded the *del Porcospino* ("Porcupine") theatrical company, producing only new Italian

plays, including some of her own. Ninetto Davoli (b.1948) is an Italian actor who became known through his roles in several of Pier Paolo Pasolini's films, having been 'discovered' by the poet, novelist and director aged only 15. Pasolini considered him to be "the great love of his life," whom he later cast in his 1966 film *Uccellacci e uccellini* (literally Bad Birds and Little Birds but translated in English as *The Hawks and the Sparrows*), co-starred with celebrated comic Totò, Pasolini became the youth's mentor and friend - a constant companion even after their sexual relations ended after only a few years, and Ninetto would continue to live with Pasolini and appear in six more of his films.

Dimensions

Overall: 20.4 x 30.3 cm (8 x 12 in.)